DESCRIPTION
This project focuses on the development of integrative design solution for a new Art Complex building. Pursuing a vertically arranged single-volume building, the design methodology will test the interpretations of functional complexity into geometric, topological and/or volumetric experiments that are precisely systemized and unitized.

PROGRAM & SITE
The program is an Art Complex located at 211&209 W Park Ave. Champaign IL next to the Virginia Theatre. The complex building consisting of approximately 50,000 square feet includes interior permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, public spaces, education facilities, administrative spaces, retails and shops, etc. Strategically located in the downtown Champaign, the Art Complex will act as a hub for talented and prominent young artists and an open venue for the public.

FROM INITIAL MODELS TO ARCHITECTURAL COMPLEXITY
This project investigates the formal and/or structural attributes of creative building systems that can be translated into a series of “Initial models” which later architecturally represent facade envelopes, off-grid structural frames, repetitive space units, solid-void based compositions, parametrically organized objects, etc. The invention of initial models aims at reacting to the complicated building requirements blended with program, publicity, spatiality, etc. As constructing and controlling the entire building volume and individual spaces, the systemized principles in models constitute three-dimensional complexity within design consistency.

According to a set of these models, a link of design principles operates as architectural elements with functional adaptation. In spite of originally non-gravitational based status, they have potential characteristics endowed such as materiality, transparency, transformability, or synthesization. With extracted contexts from site analysis and given program, the characteristics in the systems will transform into architectural and structural entities which are flexible for external conditions. Potentiality which the models have in separated variations becomes scaled-reality and is eventually integrated into a phenomenal collage model. It contains a unified boundary for the future architecture as a set of discovered ideas and principles from the previous models.

DESIGN PROCESS
In the first part, the studio creates a series of initial models that become referential sets for the building design. Formal, material, and dimensional varieties from the experiments are linked with contextual, environmental, and functional issues. With the creation of models, the studio conducts site analysis and arranges the program by each individual. Based on the models and the data set, the studio develops the architectural design for the Art Complex.